(c) whether Government support the view that the countries violating human rights should get financial assistance from the developed nations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Government has laid stress on the importance of promoting development and eradicating poverty and ensuring that development remains the primary focus of international cooperation. At the same time, it remains firmly committed to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. These commitments are not and need not be mutually exclusive.

(c) to (e) While Government has repeatedly emphasised its support for human rights, democracy and rule of law, it has conveyed in international fora and in its bilateral contacts that it is inappropriate to utilize these as non-economic conditionalities for development assistance.

2550. [*Transferred to the 18th December, 1991*]

U.N. convention on rights of the child

2551. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay in ratifying the U.N. convention on the rights of the child;

(b) the steps taken so far to expedite ratification ; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) The ratification process involves extensive consultations with different Ministries of the Government. These are expected to be completed shortly.

Relief to cyclone hit Bangladesh

2552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent havoc caused in Bangladesh by the cyclone and urgent need for relief on a Government and non-Government basis and if so, Government's response thereto ; and

(b) whether Government propose to utilise the services of NGOs working in India in close cooperation with other countries in the Indian subcontinent?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Government have extended relief assistance worth Rs. 11.5 crores in kind for the victims of the severe cyclone that struck Bangladesh on 29-30 April, 1991.

(b) Government are willing to consider utilising the services of NGOs working in India in close cooperation with other countries in the Indian subcontinent for relief assistance, on a case by case basis.

Fate of Indian community in South Africa

2553. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the million strong Indian Community in South Africa is concerned about their future as the country prepares for transition to a port apartheid era according to a news published in Hindustan Times on 24th November, 1991;

(b) what is the total number of Indians in South Africa;

(c) whether it is also fact that ever since their presence in South Africa, the local Indian people are being discriminated and are denied the right to vote, and treated as third and fourth class citizens in all the respects of life; and

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Some members of the Indian community in South Africa have expressed concern in this regard.

(b) At present there are approximately 1 million persons of Indian origin in South Africa.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In protest against the South African Government's apartheid policies, India was first country to break-off trade relations with South Africa in 1946. India was also the first country to inscribe the issue of apartheid on the agenda of the United Nations. We

have consistently championed the cause of the oppressed majority in South Africa and given considerable material, moral and dimplomatic assistance to the liberation struggle.

Indians held hostage by Iraqi forces

2554. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Wll the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 Indian were held hostage by Iraqi forces during the Gulf war ;

(b) if so, the total number of Indians held hostage by Iraqi forces; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the early release of Indians ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Around 60 Indians detained by Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait were released after government of India took up the matter with the Iraqi authorities. There are no definitive reports of any other Indian under detention by Iraq.

American stand on Indo-Pak relation

2555. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Reginald Bartholomew Visited New Delhi during last month after visiting Pakistan ;

(b) if so, the matters discussed with him by the Indian leaders ;

(c) whether during his visit to Pakistan, he told Pakistan's President that it was not Washington's policy to make India a regional hegemonic power in South Asia and in the process for sake its 40 year long friendship with Islamabad ;

(d) whether during his talks with Pakstan, the latter conveyed to him that it would not compromise on its nuclear programme under pressure from any quarter; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Govern ment of India to the US Government's stand on the various issues particularly on Non-Prolifertion Treaty in the context of the Pakistani nuclear proggamme ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions were held on matters of mutual concern including the security environment in the region.

(c) and (d) Government have seen Pakistani press reports to this effect.

(e) Government have noted the US Government's stand. Government's position on the Non-Proliferation Treaty remains consistent.

International pressure on India for signing Non-Proliferation Treaty

2556. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries and international organisations which have either formally or informally but publicly suggested to India to sign the NPT ;

(b) the response of the Government of India to these suggestions; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to counter this increasing but pernicious pressure on India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADH AVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) The NPT signatory States have called for universalisation of the Treaty at NPT review conferences and other international fora and in this connection they have in general terms been urging those States which are not parties to the NPT to sign the Treaty. However, we are not aware of any specific public demarche singling out India.

(b) and (c) We have made known our principled and consistent stand on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in the context of its being discriminatory and iniquitous.

चीन द्वारा अरुणाचल प्रदेश में हेलीपैड का बनाया जाना

2557. **श्री रणजीत सिंह :**
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 14 सितम्बर, 1991 के "जनसत्ता" में "अरुणाचल प्रदेश में चीन ने एक और हेलीपेड